

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 /068 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8787

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: ANKARA 6655 (DTG 080606Z SEP 77)(NOTAL)

1. MOST PAPERS SEPTEMBER 8 CARRY REPORTS OF SHOOTING INCIDENT (REFTEL). AS DESCRIBED IN PRESS, GREEK PATROL BOAT FIRED ON SALVAGE SHIP NAMED "HOPA 1" (ALSO DESCRIBED AS TUGBOAT) IN INTERNATIONAL OR TURKISH WATERS NEAR DIKILI, WHICH IS LOCATED ON MITILINI STRAITS SEPARATING MITILINI (LESVOS) ISLAND AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURKISH MAINLAND. POPULAR DAILY "HURRIYET" ACCOUNT SAID THAT "HOPA 1", WHICH IS OWNED BY STATE MARITIME BANK, WAS ENROUTE FROM ISTANBUL TO ISKENDERUN WHEN STOPPED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS NEAR MITILINI ISLAND AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS, SEPT. 7. ACCORDING TO "HURRIYET", TURKISH SHIP WAS STOPPED BY GREEK PATROL VESSEL WHEN IT WAS CLAIMED BY GREEKS THAT "HOPA 1" VIOLATED MILITARY EXERCISE AREA. IN PROCESS,

GREEK PATROL BOAT OPENED FIRE WITH "LIGHT MACHINE GUN", AND PAGE ONE PICTURE IN "HURRIYET" SHOWS THAT "HOPA 1" WAS HIT BY SIX ROUNDS. NO REPEAT NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED ABOARD "HOPA 1". CONSERVATIVE DAILY "TERCUMAN" ACCOUNT QUOTES SHIP'S CAPTAIN AS SAYING THAT "HOPA 1" WAS DEFINITELY WITHIN TURKISH WATERS WHEN FIRED UPON. ALSO, PRESS REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, WHEN QUESTIONED BY PRESS LATE SEPTEMBER 7, SAID THAT GOT IS LOOKING INTO SHOOTING INCIDENT.

2. COMMENT: PREDICTABLY, "HOPA 1" INCIDENT HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY IN MOST PAPERS, ALTHOUGH MAJOR HEADLINES ARE DEVOTED TO GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM INCLUDING EXPECTED RISES IN BASIC COMMODITIES. FURTHER DETAILS ON SHOOTING INCIDENT ARE BEING REPORTED BY USDAO (IR 6 898 0500 77) (DTG 080832Z SEP 77)(NOTAL), AND USDAO IS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IN CONTACTS WITH GOT MILITARY SOURCES WHETHER AREA AROUND MITILINI (LESVOS) ISLAND HAS BEEN DECLARED MILITARY EXERCISE AREA BY GOG AND WHETHER NOTICE TO MARINERS HAS BEEN ISSUED TO THAT EFFECT.

3. IT OCCURS TO US THAT, IF INCIDENT DID OCCUR AS PUBLI-CIZED, POSSIBLE REASON COULD HAVE BEEN MISREADING "HOPA" AS "HORA", FORMER NAME OF SEISMIC RESEARCH SHIP "SISMIK I". SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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